

BROADCAST 4702

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TO: Local directors and Adult Services/Adult Protective Services supervisors and staff

FROM: Lynette Isbell, director, Division of Family Services
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SUBJECT: Virginia Caregivers Grant Program

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This broadcast announces the opening of the 2008 Virginia Caregivers Grant Program.

The program provides a grant payment up to \$500 to caregivers who provide unreimbursed care to a relative or ward who has a mental or physical impairment for at least six months during the year. Individual grant amounts will be determined by the funding approved by the 2008 General Assembly and the Governor. The funding will be divided equally among all eligible applicants.

As required by the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) will accept grant applications from February 1 to May 1, 2008. The filing dates cannot be extended.

The 2008 application materials are available on the VDSS website at http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/as/caregiver_forms.cgi or by calling the Virginia Caregivers Grant toll-free number at 1-877-648-2817.

The caregiver must be a relative or guardian of the person receiving care and must have no more than \$50,000 in annual earnings for a single caregiver and no more than \$75,000 for a married caregiver. The person receiving care must not be receiving Medicaid-funded long-term care services other than on a temporary or periodic basis. The person receiving care must be dependent in at least two activities of daily living (ADL) as defined in the *Virginia Uniform Assessment Instrument User's Manual*. A licensed physician must certify that the person receiving care meets the ADL requirement.

Local agency staff may expect inquiries and are encouraged to provide copies of the application and eligibility criteria to community members who request information.

Thank you for providing information and assisting caregivers with their applications. Questions may be directed to the toll-free number at 1-877-648-2817.